

A partnership approach to Spartina removal in the Fraser River Delta

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In the Georgia Basin Puget Sound, large concentrations of Cordgrass (*Spartina*) historically have occurred south of the Canadian - United States border. In the fall of 2003, *Spartina* was found in the Fraser Delta during habitat surveys. A multi-agency partnership was formed who liaised closely with staff from Washington State to build on the recent successes in *Spartina* removal. Since that period, many agencies have collaborated to carry out a *Spartina* removal plan for the Fraser Delta in 2003 and 2004. In 2004, intertidal habitats were surveyed using a hovercraft to identify large *Spartina* patches and GPS ground surveys to identify individual plants. Using GIS maps, agencies coordinated the removal of larger clones using an excavator while smaller clones and individual plants were removed manually. Over 12 agencies combined to reduce *Spartina* that had invaded over 50 ha (130 acres) of intertidal habitat in Boundary Bay and Roberts Bank, two key intertidal habitats for migrating and wintering shorebirds and waterfowl. While no single agency had sufficient resources for *Spartina* removal, the quick response of the partnership approach removed all known locations in Roberts Bank and significantly reduced the distribution and amount of *Spartina* in Boundary Bay.